



## Some buildings may be torn down

# Developers buy AMA

Alumni dreams of seeing AMA reopened were dashed when area developers bought the Augusta Military Academy buildings and property October 6 at a court-ordered auction on the school grounds.

Kennard Campbell of Stuarts Draft, and I.H. Baker of Staunton paid \$300,000 for all the AMA buildings and 53 acres of land. Campbell said they do not yet have specific plans for the property, *"but it definitely will not be a school... This is strictly a business deal, and we may end up tearing down some buildings that don't have a useful purpose."*

### Alumni meet with buyers

On October 28, Alumni Association officials met with Campbell and Baker who said that alumni should come up with ideas, and money, if they are interested in preserving the buildings at the school. The developers plan to subdivide the land behind Big Barracks, land with a commanding view of the Valley.

AMA Alumni Association President **Gary Nicholson, '70**, said that *"dreams die hard. We had hoped that Colonel Gene Nervo would succeed with his project to open a wilderness academy at AMA. Our dreams that a school might be in operation at Augusta have all but faded away."*

Colonel Nervo is a retired Marine officer who operates a wilderness leadership academy in Craig County, VA, and who had hoped to open a similar facility at Augusta for "at-risk" kids. At the last minute, one of his co-signers backed out, and Nervo was unable to come up with his \$345,000 bid.

### The end of an era

The sale apparently closes the books on attempts to reopen Virginia's oldest military academy. Founded in 1865 by Charles S. Roller, a Confederate veteran, the school was operated from 1907 until it closed in 1984 by Colonel Thomas Roller, General Charles S. Roller, Jr., and Colonel Mal and Linda Roller Livick, General Roller's granddaughter and her husband.

*(continued on page 6)*



**Alumni asked for  
ideas to save our  
school buildings  
Page 8A**

Augusta Military Academy  
Alumni Association, Inc.

November 1995



Dear Fellow Alumnus:

Dreams die hard. We had hoped that Colonel Gene Nervo would succeed with his project to open a wilderness academy at AMA. When he was not able to consummate his purchase, our dreams that a school might be in operation at Augusta have faded away. While we do not know yet what the purchasers plan for the AMA buildings and grounds, they have said clearly that it will not be a school.

What we have left is a panoply of golden memories, and each other. Your alumni association is devoted to keeping those memories alive. We believe the best way of doing that is the maintenance of a strong association, an effective communications program, and a scholarship program that permits us to honor Augusta's unparalleled past while looking to the futures of the next generations.

Our memories are best reinforced when we are hearing from and about cadets from our eras. This requires a commitment to inform *The Bayonet* whenever there is news in your life - the birth of a child or grandchild, a job change, retirement, marriage, or an illness. Please keep sending in news!

And continue your support of our scholarship programs. As you will see on page 7, the new Honors and Memorials program is giving alumni a powerful opportunity to assure that AMA's heritage is preserved. Whatever happens at Fort Defiance, we can assure that Augusta Military Academy will live forever!

*K. Gary Nicholson, '70*

President, AMA Alumni Association, Inc.



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The *Bayonet* welcomes information and articles for or about AMA alumni. Share the news of promotions, awards, retirement, births, marriages, deaths, etc. Please print or type your submission.

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**Letters to the editor**  
*Please send news*

When the September *Bayonet* arrived, Libby and I both read it cover to cover. Each previous issue has been great, but this issue is SUPER!

If readers will constantly mail news to the newsletter, each issue will be interesting. Thank you! You have provided a gift to everyone on the mailing list.

I hope the appeals to send news and to support the scholarship funds will encourage adequate responses. We all know we can't have a newsy communication without both news and capital to support it.

**- Mickey Gordon, '39**

**Look forward to each issue**

I do enjoy *The Bayonet*, and look forward to each issue. It is interesting to hear about old chums. Let's face it, for a lot of

us, they were our family. You never know how much old friends mean to you...

**- Harold Chow, '53**

**Sad memories**

The September *Bayonet* is great, even if it did bring back some sad memories of classmates who made the supreme sacrifice in World War II. Thank you for this reminder.

My memory tells me that all of us were looking forward to serving during the War - what a difference from today!

**- John Hockman, '44**

**Many close friends**

I had many close friends who served and died in World War II, but until I read the last *Bayonet*, I had no idea AMA had given so many of its young men to die in the defense of freedom in that War. How proud we should be!

**- John Younger, '43**

# Class Notes \ Class Notes \ Class Notes

1931

**Birch Grawl** has worked in his own mortgage business since he retired in 1965. He and Pearl divide their time between Glen Mills, PA and Orlando. They have two children, eight grandchildren, and five great grandchildren. Birch thinks that he is "*the only cadet ever hit by what came out of the French 75 cannon... which was fired at Sunday Dress Parades... a black, greasy wad, right in the ear!*"

1935

**Dr. Linwood Clarke** has been in education for much of his life. A school principal in Massachusetts, school superintendent in New Hampshire, and a faculty member at Boston University. He retired in 1976, helped to build some secondary schools on Cape Cod, and is now retired in Kissimmee, FL.

1938

**George Neal** attended Marshall College after AMA, went into the Army in 1942, attended OCS, and served in Europe. He sold real estate for a time, and was back in the service during the Korean War. He worked as a photographer in New York, and in 1960, went back home to Huntington, WV to work for the State. He retired in 1982.

**Wally Brubeck** owned a jewelry store in Wayne, WV until he retired two years ago. He plays golf as often as he can. Wally's brother, **Bill Brubeck**, '38, lived

in Salem, VA and passed away 12 October 1993.

1939

**George Leatherman** was very kind in offering to give **Earl Cabaniss**, '43, the 1941 *Recall* which had belonged to his late brother, **Johnny Leatherman**, '42, who passed away in 1945.

1940

**Herb Ritchey**, according to **Mickey Gordon**, '39, was planning to attend the *Ad Astra* reunion this fall. That's great, except the reunion is in 1996!

The storm took two-thirds of our roof... leaving only the kitchen and the great room untouched...

1941

**Mike Elliott** was one of many alumni who had a 1941 *Recall* to offer **Earl Cabaniss**. Mike lives in Auburn, CA. Thanks for your offer, Mike!

1942

**Bill Stuart** and Pat celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary in June. They have four grown children, all of whom live in the Washington, DC area, and their eighth grandchild is on the way. Bill has been in the real estate business in Washington since 1948, and while he has relinquished management responsibilities, he still is a licensed real estate broker in the National Capital area.

1944

**Walter Holt** was one of several alumni who gave us **David Eborn's** hometown - Washington, NC. That may help us to locate David's military records. Eborn was killed by rifle fire in China in 1946.

1945

**Willard Finney** went into the Army after finishing at Augusta, and served in Italy. He graduated from UVA in 1950 and from the T.C. Williams School of Law at the University of Richmond in 1953. He has practiced law in Rocky Mount, VA since 1958, and served in the Virginia House of Delegates 1983-1993.

1946

**John Jackson** lives in Summit Point, WV and has been retired from E.I. DuPont for ten years. He and Mary Anne have been wed 48 years, and have two children. John still enjoys antique motorcycles and old cars.

**Bill Wilson** writes from Crisfield, MD that he would like to obtain a copy of a 1945 or 1946 *Recall*. Can anyone help?

1947

**John Herring** was a part of an elegant party on The Lawn at the University of Virginia which kicked off UVA's \$750 million fund drive. He spotted **Mickey Gordon**, '39, and Libby in the well-dressed crowd. John takes part in a memorial service for Robert E. Lee's horse, Traveler, at Washington and Lee Univer-

